

4-30-1860

Letter from Sarah Whitney, Watertown, Massachusetts, to Anne Whitney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1860 April 30

Sarah Whitney

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Carrie is preparing to start
next Tues. with Mr & Mrs Roose
for St Louis by the way of Niagara,
& she & Mother have petitioned Edw
to take me thus far on the way - but
I guess it will not be.

I have a chance to send to N. Post
office - so in the expectation of writing
in a few days to tell you of the work
I did your very dear Anne a hasty adieu
Sarah

Mon. evng Apr 30th [1860]

I think nearest that procrastinating
letter must have reached you in due time,
but lest it sh^dnt have done so I hasten
to assure you of the general well being
& disp^{ose} such matters of particular
interest as I can recall. Mother retains
her old partiality for real & ridicules
occasionally, but as far as I can discern
with no ill effect - My eyes are, I think
"continually strengthening," but so gradually
that I sometimes get a little impatient.
During the last week I have had no right
to complain of inability to use them by day
light, but long use is out of the question
as to day's looking proves after the attempt
to require a half hour's waiting for our
pleasure seeking Mary when the rest
of the family were in bed.

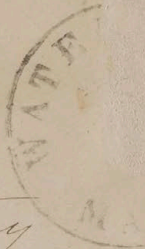
Tues. A.M. My purpose to write yesterday
was frustrated by callers among whom
was Mary L. weary & worn by an unpropitious
suit - No sleep on Sat. night & no appe-
tite yesterday - To day the parties must be
in attendance, though there is some hope

that the case will be given to the Judge only as a law question. The woman having quarreled with her last lawyer (Mr Austin of N) promises to manage her own case. Mary is troubled that the Violets did not go to you by mail as she had intended for them she thinks they wld have reached you fresh & fragrant. She brought two bunches, the last, she says of the season & with them a sweet little bunch of house flowers for my "sick friend", by wh is designated Fanny Haddock, who with her sister Mary & Alice from Dorchester yesterday P.M. I think we shall find them very pleasant visitors & I shall be delighted if they but gain a little strength in their visit! It is so sad to see sick women struggling with poverty. The Whites & Corrolls also move my compassion, but I see no help for them. Ruthy is the only one of the feminine part of the family who is earning money & she has been doing it the last 2 or 3 months under the infliction of a carbuncle & more than 20 boils. They want to move to Walpole where rents are very low & the means of living much cheaper than in this vicinity but Mr C. objects that it wld kill him - & so they live so distressed by their extravagance though straining every nerve to be economical. The Burriages say "nobody knows what sorrow is if they but own a house to cover them."

I am afraid you will think I am dealing in the dismal. It certainly was not my intention when I began, nor was I specially conscious of the cloud over our friends' heads. Fortunately Nature if she be but reasonable, favorable sends gladness into all their hearts & a living Faith sustains them amid their trials. I did so want some, ay all of them to be with me on Sun. A.M. in the woods where blood root, cowslips, anemones & dogtooth violets carpeted the Sanctuary & robins poured out their jubilate in almost deafening peals. In the P.M. I went with Edw. Carrie & A. Hubbard to hear J. Ellis at Newton Corner & that too was good. Then I made a flying call upon Mary carrying to her some of the morn's gleanings - She says that you or I always bring bloodroot to her when she is in the law.

I think you & Mr Deland's criticisms are the first adverse ones I have heard to the Marble Farm. Mrs Silsbee said, I had a rare treat in prospect & others have spoken as warmly - but since Blithedale I have been afraid of the man. 'Tis pleasant in this cold weather to hear of the coal resource, but I can't but wonder how it is measured with such confidence. Doubtless there is enough to last my life time, so I will trouble myself with no speculations or distrust

Miss Anne Whitney
Care of J. P. Lesley Esq
411 Netherhill St
Philadelphia



Ms. A. 30 -

